



## United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT  
Western Region Office  
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320  
Denver, CO 80202-3050



NM-0042-A-Y-01

August 20, 2014

### **Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested**

Mr. Gary Sheth  
NPDES Permits Office (WTR-5)  
Water Division  
USEPA Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

### **Subject: Final Biological Assessment for the Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Mine Energy Project**

Greetings;

OSMRE submitted the final Biological Assessment (BA) for the Four Corners Power Plant Navajo Mine Energy Project to the USFWS on August 8, 2014. OSMRE requested the initiation of formal consultation with that submittal. For your information and use, we are forwarding the attached DVD, which contains the letter transmitting the final BA, the BA and all appendices, and all of the literature cited in the BA. This material should not be shared with anyone aside from cooperating agencies and the applicants. If you receive a request for this information, please direct that request to OSMRE.

We look forward to working with the USFWS, cooperating agencies and proponents in the development of the BO during the formal consultation, which officially began with submittal of the final BA and is anticipated to be complete by February 24, 2015. We will keep you informed of opportunities to participate in that process, as they become available, once the FWS has had an opportunity to complete their initial review.

Should you require any additional information regarding the BA or OSMRE's request, please do not hesitate to contact me at (303) 293-5047 or my Project Coordinator, Marcelo Calle, at (303) 293-5035. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

*Rick Williams*

Rick Williamson  
Manager, Indian Program Branch  
Program Support Division – Western Region  
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

cc: [No Enclosure, No Certified]  
Wally Murphy, USFWS  
David Campbell, USFWS  
Marcelo Calle, OSMRE  
Alex Birchfield, OSMRE  
Larry Wise, Cardno Entrix

Enclosure: Final Biological Assessment for the Four Corners Power Plant Navajo Mine  
Energy Project